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EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

PREVALENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Reports received by the United States Public Health Service indicate that influenza conditions are apparently improving in a number of States, including Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Vermont. In a number of other States conditions appear to be about stationary, with the disease diminishing in cities and spreading in rural districts. The epidemic appears to be spreading in those States which had not previously suffered severely from it.

The following statement is a summary of the more important reports of the prevalence of influenza received since the last issue of the Public Health Reports: ¹

Alabama.—During the past week from 600 to 6,000 cases of influenza have been reported each day. On October 22 it was stated that cases of pneumonia were increasing somewhat. At Birmingham from October 8 to 12, inclusive, an average of 875 cases and 11 deaths were reported per day, while from October 13 to 19, inclusive, the averages were 379 cases and 20 deaths.

Arizona.—The epidemic appears to be widespread in Arizona.

Arkansas.—For the period October 14–19, about 1,800 cases were reported per day. For 10 days ended October 20, 82 deaths were reported, of which 27 were in Helena and 34 in Texarkana and vicinity. In most of the larger towns the peak seems to be passed, but the situation in rural districts was stated on October 18 to be growing more serious.

California.—On October 22 it was stated that 38,500 cases had been reported in California since the beginning of the epidemic. Reports are stated to be incomplete. In San Francisco 6,244 cases had been reported up to and including October 21.

Colorado.—Since the beginning of the epidemic about 9,000 cases and 311 deaths have been reported. On October 22, 781 new cases

¹ Unless otherwise stated, the word "cases" refers to cases reported as influenza and "deaths" refers to deaths registered as being due to either influenza or pneumonia.

were reported. For the period October 17-22, inclusive, 155 deaths were reported in Denver.

Connecticut.—A total of 72,907 cases and 2,956 deaths has been reported since the beginning of the epidemic, which is on the decline throughout the State. The disease is hanging on in the larger cities, but there are prospects of an early decline. It was estimated on October 20 that 180,000 cases had occurred. On that date deaths were given as follows for some of the larger cities: Hartford, 325; Waterbury, 294; New Haven, 209; and Bridgeport, 69.

Delaware.—The situation in Delaware continues to improve day by day. Fewer cases are reported each day, and the new cases seem to be of a milder type. Hospital cases have been reduced one-half. It is stated that the improvement began on October 13.

District of Columbia.—During the week ended October 22, 6,209 cases were reported. The number of cases appears to be declining.

Florida.—For the period October 5 to 17 deaths were reported as follows: Jacksonville, 234; Tampa, 30; Miami, 26; Key West, 22; Gainesville, 10; scattering, 49—total, 371. The number of deaths increased rapidly from October 5 to 12.

Georgia.—On October 21 it was stated that the conditions throughout the State were improving. On October 22 an increased number of cases and deaths were reported, the figures being 2,318 and 68 against 1,361 and 45 for the preceding day. On both October 17, and 18 more than 3,000 cases were reported.

Idaho.—Cases of the disease have been reported during the past few days from Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, Moscow, Pocatello, Twin Falls, and Wallace. On October 22, 102 cases were reported from Pocatello. Only a few cases are being reported from Boise.

Indiana.—The influenza situation is improving, while the number of pneumonia cases is increasing. On October 22, 2,075 cases were reported. The improvement is believed to be more marked in the northern counties.

Iowa.—The situation does not appear to have changed greatly in the last few days. There is a decrease in the number of cases reported at Des Moines. On October 22, 136 localities reported 2,513 new cases and 28 deaths.

Kansas.—For the week ended October 19, 13,810 cases were reported in Kansas. Since the epidemic began 26,800 cases have been reported. Conditions are about stationary. At Kansas City, 308 cases were reported on October 21 and 22, while for the week ended October 19, 1,678 cases were reported.

Kentucky.—For the period from October 5 to 16, inclusive, 4,039 cases and 184 deaths were reported. Reports indicate widespread prevalence. On October 22, 270 cases and 19 deaths were reported

at Louisville. A great decrease in the number of cases in Hancock County is reported.

Louisiana.—On October 20, 3,308 cases and 152 deaths were reported for Louisiana, exclusive of Baton Rouge and Lake Charles. On October 21, New Orleans reported 139 deaths. Returns are stated to be unsatisfactory.

Maine.—The epidemic is decreasing at many points. On October 22, 47 places reported 3,066 new cases and 60 deaths.

Maryland.—The disease is declining rapidly, except in some small localities into which it has just been introduced. For the week ended October 18, Baltimore reported 1,357 deaths. The deaths for the 19th were 169, for the 20th 107, and for the 21st 118.

Massachusetts.—Since September 8, when the epidemic started, it is stated that 4,000 deaths have occurred in Boston. About 50 deaths a day are now being registered in Boston.

Michigan.—From October 1 to 18, inclusive, 11,083 cases and 258 deaths were reported in Michigan. On October 22 alone, 4,516 cases and 160 deaths were reported, showing that the disease is spreading rapidly. On the 22d at Detroit 1,367 cases and 52 deaths were reported.

Minnesota.—A report dated October 19 indicated that the southern part of the State was suffering most, that the middle northern portion was practically free from the disease, and that the disease was spreading slowly. The disease is slowly increasing at Duluth, where about 150 cases have been reported among refugees. About 6,000 cases have been reported in Minneapolis and about 700 are being reported each day; about 1,100 cases have been reported in St. Paul and about 100 are being reported each day. There is a bad outbreak at St. Cloud, where 2,500 cases have been reported. Seven hundred new cases were reported from this place on October 22. The epidemic is serious at Plain View. There are 56 cases in the prison at Stillwater. The disease is subsiding at other points.

Missouri.—All counties report that conditions are either stationary or improving. Totals to date in 45 counties are: 21,826 cases and 516 deaths.

Mississippi.—Reports from many counties recorded 4,748 new cases on October 22.

Montana.—For the week ended October 21, 3,579 cases were reported. Reports are stated to be very incomplete. On October 21 it was stated that there were approximately 1,100 cases on Tongue River Indian Reservation, from which 39 deaths have been reported.

Nebraska.—Exclusive of Omaha, 2,136 cases and 43 deaths were reported from 74 places on October 22. For the week ended October 19, 138 deaths were registered in Omaha, where the condition is stated to be serious.

Nevada.—A small number of cases are reported from different localities.

New Hampshire.—On October 18 it was stated that conditions in New Hampshire were decidedly better. Cases and deaths continue to be reported, especially from Nashua.

New Jersey.—There is apparently an improvement in the situation in New Jersey. To October 22, 149,540 cases and 4,398 deaths had been reported. On October 22, 7,449 new cases and 366 deaths were reported.

New Mexico.—Five counties report that conditions are slightly better. Reports from 20 counties up to and including October 19 record 7,371 cases and 237 deaths. At Carlsbad up to and including October 21, 2,149 cases and 39 deaths had been reported.

New York.—From October 1 to 22, inclusive, 56 cities out of 61, not including New York City, show 4,543 deaths. More than 175 deaths are reported for each of the following cities: New York, Albany, Buffalo, Schenectady, and Syracuse. In New York City 3,940 cases and 869 deaths were reported on October 22.

North Carolina.—Some cities report that the situation is improved. Totals reported for October 19, 20, and 21 from a number of places are 1,562 cases and 39 deaths.

North Dakota.—On October 18, 12 counties reported 2,241 cases; on October 20 scattering reports showed 148 cases and 7 deaths; on October 22, 11 counties reported 258 cases.

Ohio.—It was estimated that there were 125,000 cases in the State on October 22. Cincinnati up to that time had reported 22,000 cases. On October 22, 56 cities reported 4,172 cases and 284 deaths.

Oklahoma.—The situation in the State generally is probably unchanged. It is bad in the eastern half of the State, but fairly good in the western half. Reports are stated to be very incomplete. Conditions are improving in Oklahoma City. For the week ended October 16 cases were reported as follows: Adair County, 700; Pontotoc County, 1,000; Grady County, 150; Garfield County, 600; and Texas County, 15—total, 2,465.

Oregon.—The situation is stated to be satisfactory. New cases are reported from a number of localities, especially Portland. On October 22, 17 localities reported 416 cases and 16 deaths.

Pennsylvania.—It is estimated that 350,000 cases have occurred in the State, of which 150,000 were probably in Philadelphia. For the first 18 days of October 14,805 deaths were registered.

Rhode Island.—On October 22, 53 deaths were reported from Rhode Island, 32 being in Providence, 18 in Pawtucket, and the rest scattering.

South Carolina.—A large number of towns are reporting improvement in conditions, with a daily decrease in the number of new

cases. The general situation in the State is stated to be approaching the crest, which is expected shortly.

South Dakota.—On October 22 the number of new cases reported was 1,489 and the number of deaths 40.

Tennessee.—Conditions are greatly improved in nearly all cities and towns, but the disease is slowly spreading in rural districts and mining regions. Up to October 21, 6,054 cases and 99 deaths were reported at Chattanooga and 5,475 cases and 358 deaths at Memphis. Continuous improvement in conditions at Nashville has been noted.

Texas.—Twelve cities report a total of 26,062 cases and 517 deaths since the beginning of the epidemic.

Utah.—Several thousand cases are stated to be present. The epidemic is still spreading.

Vermont.—All places show improvement, except Burlington. In this city 1,000 new cases were reported during the week ended October 19. From 106 towns reports were received of 4,576 cases for that week.

Virginia.—Reports indicate general prevalence of the disease.

Washington.—During the week ended October 19, 4,525 cases were reported.

West Virginia.—Fifty-two towns in 35 counties reported 1,559 new cases and 118 deaths on October 22.

Wisconsin.—Reports of the disease have been received from a large number of places, in some of which the disease is increasing and in others decreasing.

Wyoming.—Twenty-five hundred cases of the disease were reported for a one-week period. The three counties hardest hit were widely separated.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA AND THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

Better than volumes of reasoned arguments, the present epidemic of "Spanish" influenza has shown in concrete form how important it is to have attached to the United States Public Health Service a reserve organization which can be mobilized in times of emergency.

With the widespread occurrence of influenza in the vicinity of Boston, and the unmistakable signs of its beginning elsewhere, urgent calls were addressed to the United States Public Health Service to furnish medical and nursing relief to stricken communities. All available regular officers were detailed to the stricken communities, but the number available for such detail was insignificant compared to the urgent need occasioned by the epidemic. Moreover, the bureau had no nurses available for service in epidemic.

In this emergency the Surgeon General called upon the Volunteer Medical Service Corps, the Red Cross, the medical and nursing pro-